

### CLEAN COPY OF CLAIMS

Claims 33-45 have been added. Claims 21-32 have been cancelled without prejudice. A clean copy of the claims is provided below. A marked up version of the claims follows the clean copy.

21. (Cancelled)

22. (Cancelled)

23. (Cancelled)

24. (Cancelled)

25. (Cancelled)

26. (Cancelled)

27. (Cancelled)

28. (Cancelled)

29. (Cancelled)

30. (Cancelled)

31. (Cancelled)

32. (Cancelled)

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33. (New) A method comprising:

receiving a connection protocol request from a client machine for a connection to a server machine;

determining that none of a plurality of physical connection resources of the server machine can accommodate the requested connection;

sending, to the client machine, a message to inform an operator of the client machine that the operator will be notified when the server machine can grant the requested connection;

queuing the received connection protocol request;

determining that at least one of the physical connection resources of the server machine can accommodate the requested connection;

sending, to the client machine, a message to inform the operator of the client machine that the requested connection can be granted, and requesting a confirmation of the connection protocol request;

receiving the confirmation of the connection protocol request from the client machine, the confirmation being caused by the operator of the client machine; and

allowing the connection between the client machine and the server machine to be established according to a connection protocol.

34. (New) The method of claim 33, wherein the connection protocol request comprises a Transmission Control Protocol (TCP) connection request.

35. (New) The method of claim 34, wherein the client machine comprises a Web Client and the server machine comprises a Web Server.

36. (New) The method of claim 33, wherein the plurality of physical connection resources comprise a plurality of connection ports.

37. (New) The method of claim 33, wherein receiving the confirmation of the connection protocol request comprises receiving an indication that the operator still wishes a connection between the client machine and the server machine to be established.

38. (New) A server machine comprising:

a processor;

a memory coupled to the processor;

a communication device coupled to the processor; and

a machine-readable medium coupled to the processor and having stored thereon a communication protocol which, when executed by the processor, causes the processor to:

receive, through the communication device, a connection protocol request from a client machine for a connection to a server machine, the server machine being coupled to the network using the communication device;

upon determining that none of a plurality of physical connection resources of the server machine can accommodate the requested connection, send a message to the client machine through the communication device to inform an operator of the client machine that the operator will be notified when the server machine can grant the requested connection;

queue the received connection protocol request using the memory;

upon determining that at least one of the physical connection resources of the server machine can accommodate the requested connection, send a message to the client machine through the communication device to inform the operator of the client machine that the requested connection can be granted and request a confirmation of the connection protocol request;

receive the confirmation of the connection protocol request from the client machine through the communication device; and

establish the connection between the client machine and the server machine.

39. (New) The server machine of claim 38, wherein the connection protocol request comprises a Transmission Control Protocol (TCP) connection request.

40. (New) The server machine of claim 39, wherein the client machine comprises a Web Client and the server machine comprises a Web Server.

41. (New) The server machine of claim 38, wherein the plurality of physical connection resources comprise a plurality of connection ports.

42. (New) A machine-readable medium having stored thereon data representing instructions that form a connection protocol, which, when executed by a processor, cause the processor to perform operations comprising:

receiving a connection protocol request from a client machine for a connection to a server machine;

determining that none of a plurality of physical connection resources of the server machine can accommodate the requested connection;

sending, to the client machine, a message to inform an operator of the client machine that the operator will be notified when the server machine can grant the requested connection;

queuing the received connection protocol request;

determining that at least one of the physical connection resources of the server machine can accommodate the requested connection;

sending, to the client machine, a message to inform the operator of the client machine that the requested connection can be granted, and requesting a confirmation of the connection protocol request;

receiving the confirmation of the connection protocol request from the client machine, the confirmation being caused by the operator of the client machine; and

allowing the connection between the client machine and the server machine to be established according to a connection protocol.

43. (New) The machine-readable medium of claim 42, wherein the connection protocol request comprises a Transmission Control Protocol (TCP) connection request.

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44. (New) The machine-readable medium of claim 43, wherein the client machine comprises a Web Client and the server machine comprises a Web Server.

45. (New) The machine-readable medium of claim 42, wherein the plurality of physical connection resources comprise a plurality of connection ports.

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